



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Parker et al \*  
Serial No.: 10/696,197 \*  
Filed: October 29, 2003 \*  
For: FIRE-BARRIER COMPOSITION \*

Art Unit: 1714  
Examiner: Kriellion Antionette Sanders

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

To the Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Official Action of August 10, 2005 in which claims 3-13 were rejected and claims 1 and 2 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Election was with traverse.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC § 103

At the outset applicants point out that their invention is directed to a fire-retardant composition comprising effective amounts of a clay (e.g., attapulgite clay), magnesium sulfate and water as a dispersion.

Claims 3-13 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Speronello et al* ('322), *Hallo et al* ('473) and *Drew et al* ('154). *Speronello et al* teach preparing a "massive body" which is defined as being a solid shaped article such as a tablet. A composition of a metal chlorite, a solid acid source and a clay are to be used in preparing said "massive body"; with the clay being useful in assisting in preparing the solid shaped article (tablet). Note particularly that *Speronello et al* are